

**PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 13-07**  
**CITY OF WILLMAR**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013**

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, by Vice Chairman Audrey Nelsen at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Bruce DeBlieck, Tim Johnson (substituting for Ron Christianson) and Steve Ahmann. Also present were: Mayor Frank Yanish, Charlene Stevens, City Administrator; Bruce Peterson, Planning and Development Services Director; Jim Felt, Police Captain; Adam Arvidson, Gary Geiger, Wayne Nelson, Bev Dougherty, and David Little, "West Central Tribune."

**1. PRESENTATION OF CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT GATEWAY CONCEPTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**

Adam Arvidson presented concepts for "gateways" to the Central Business District. These gateways were a specified element of the Downtown Plan. The gateway areas include 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Litchfield Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Highway 12, and the area between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Benson Avenue on Highway 12.

Gateways to downtown Willmar are constrained by available right-of-way or public space. The ideas presented were a mix of parts or components, including linear elements or fences, vertical elements or columns, and pavement changes. Other components could be curb alternatives, murals on buildings, and the reduction of sign clutter.

Mr. Arvidson conceptually applied each of the components to the three gateways. Aerial photos were viewed showing how the components could be incorporated into each gateway. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Highway 12 Gateway was viewed with three different concepts inspired by the railroad switching yards, the forest meeting the prairie, and the glacial lakes

The committee offered comments regarding preferences. An unofficial favorite was the railroad concept, and the committee discussed possible materials and colors. The next step will be for Mr. Arvidson to refine drawings for each gateway showing the favored concept, along with estimates of cost. This will follow a public open house, Planning Commission review, and public viewing.

**2. SUMP PUMP INSPECTION UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**

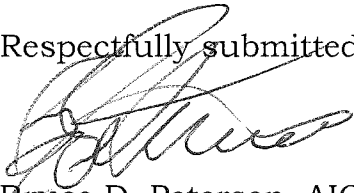
Staff informed the committee that the program to inspect sump pump systems in the Country Club Drive area and southwest Willmar is complete. One residence remains noncompliant. A letter has been sent informing the property owner that a \$100/day penalty will begin as of May 1<sup>st</sup> in accordance with the Municipal Code.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**

Captain Jim Felt provided an update on parking ticket statistics and offered a report on recent vehicle vandalism. Responding to a request from a committee member, Gary Geiger spoke briefly about past efforts to survey downtown businesses regarding future plans.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Peterson", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP  
Director of Planning & Development Services